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From: Rennie, CLLR Alex <Alex.Rennie@havant.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 December 2021 23:10
To: reviews
Cc: Payter, Imogen
Subject: Havant Borough Council - Conservative Group Consultation Response
Attachments: Boundary Commission Submission.pdf

Categories: [REDACTED]

To whom it might concern,

Please find attached the submission to the consultation into the review of the ward boundaries of Havant Borough Council on behalf of the Conservative Group.

I'd be grateful if you could let me know if it's been safely received. We would welcome any further opportunity to discuss the response with the Boundary Commission.

Kind regards,
Alex

Cllr Alex Rennie
Leader of Havant Borough Council
Ward Councillor for Bondfields and West Leigh



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**The Electoral Review of the Borough of Havant
Response to the LGBCE Consultation 2021**

**WARDING PATTERN SUBMISSION BY
HAVANT CONSERVATIVE GROUP**

About this submission:

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf of the Conservative Group of Councillors at Havant Borough Council.

It is submitted by the Havant Conservatives Group, which is the largest group (33 Members) on Havant Borough Council (the “Council”).

For more information or for clarification please contact:

Councillor Alex Rennie

Leader of The Conservative Group on Havant Borough Council

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Principle Authors of this report: Cllr Alex Rennie and Cllr Imogen Payter

Supported by Cllr Narinder Bains

INTRODUCTION & FOREWORD:

This is the submission on behalf of Havant Conservatives to the LGBCE consultation on its electoral review of the Borough of Havant (the "Borough"). It is submitted by the Havant Conservative Group, which is the largest group on Havant Borough Council (the "Council"). This submission is made in the name of and with the agreement of the 33 councillors that make up the Conservative Group on Havant Borough Council.

Throughout the summer, I was an active participant to the cross-party working group, which was established by the Council to provide a response to the Stage 1 of the LGBCE consultation. At Stage 1 of the consultation, I was pleased to support the Council's recommendation that the number of Members be reduced from 38 to 36.

Whilst it is vital that all views are listened to and taken into proper consideration, it is also important to note that there is not a single part of the Borough that is currently not represented by either a Conservative County Councillor or a Conservative Borough Councillor, and I am confident that we are able to represent the equally the views of all our residents.

It is also worth noting that the Borough of Havant is represented by two Parliamentary Constituencies, Havant and Meon Valley. We strongly believe in the merit of ensuring that there are no cross-constituency boundaries as it causes confusion for residents.

In submitting this response, I would like to pay thanks to Cllr Imogen Payter and Cllr Narinder Bains for their contribution to this submission.



**Cllr Alex Rennie
Leader of the Conservative Group
Havant Borough Council**

KEY FACTS ABOUT THE BOROUGH:

Havant is a Borough in the south-east part of Hampshire.

We border East Hampshire District Council to the north, Winchester City Council to the west, Portsmouth City Council to the south west and Chichester District Council in West Sussex to the east.

There is a mix between the urban settings of Havant, Leigh Park, Purbrook, Stakes, Emsworth and Waterlooville and the semi-rural Hayling Island. It is also bordered by the rural South Downs to the north.

The Borough is under significant pressure to build more houses over the next few years and is currently in the process of formulating a new Local Plan.

The major planned settlement in the Borough is the strategic housing site of Southleigh that is mainly inside the St Faith's ward (with a small section of the site planned for the Emsworth ward). This is planned for 2,100 homes, with 900 homes anticipated outside the Local Plan period of up to 2037.

According to the Council's latest Community Profile: "The most recent 'Small Area Population Forecasts' (SAPF) estimated the population of the Borough as 123,700 people in 2016 and this is expected to rise to 129,300 people by 2023."

The Borough also has an ageing population. As the population continues to age there will be a corresponding drop in the proportion of working-age people. The 2011 census shows that for every 100 working age people, there were 61 older people. This is predicted to rise to 71 by 2021.

THREE LEGAL FACTORS:

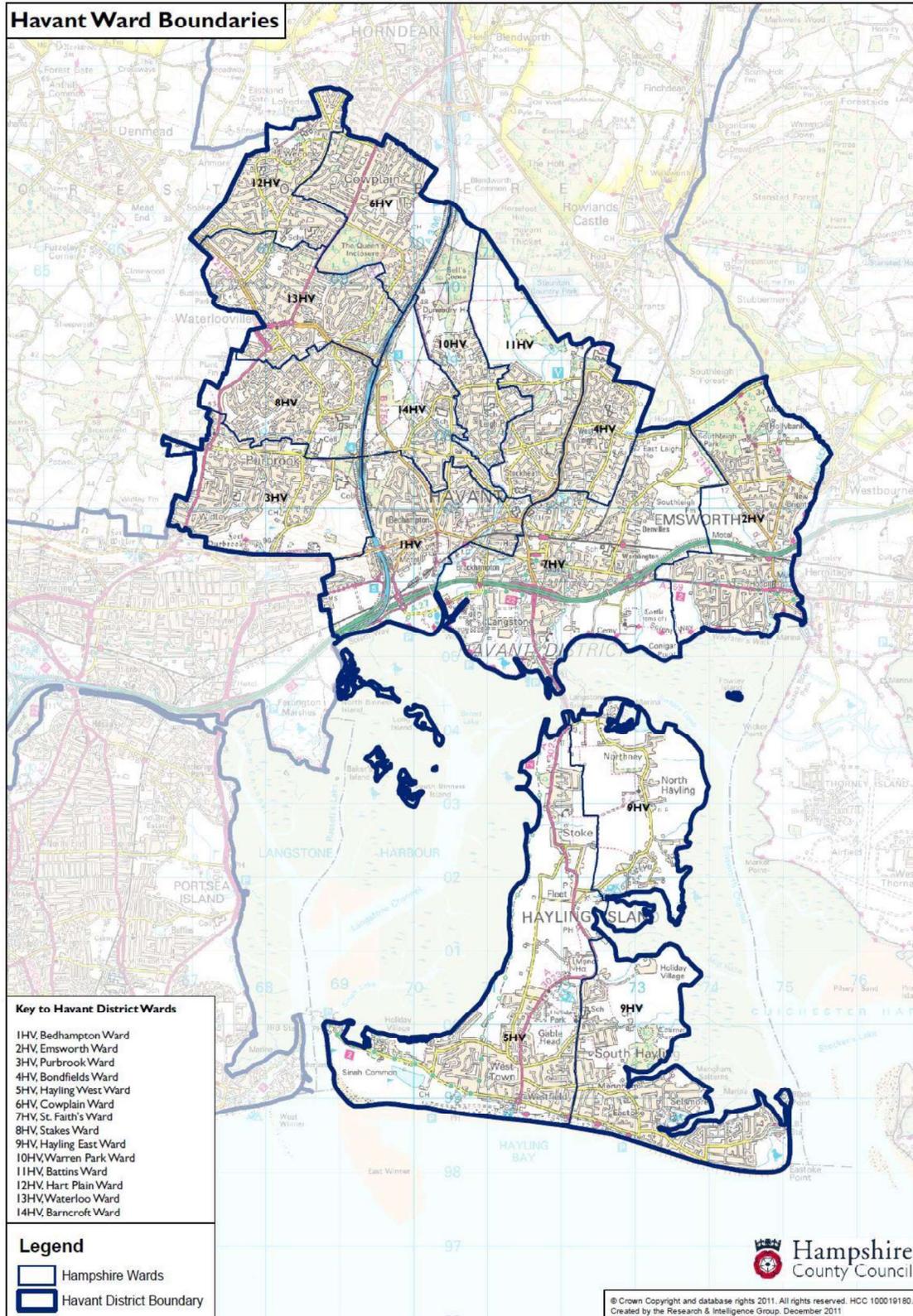
This submission has been crafted to ensure that it meets the three legal factors the Commission uses to draw new boundaries:

1. New wards should leave each councillor representing roughly the same number of voters as other councillors elsewhere in the authority.
2. New wards should – as far as possible – reflect community interests and identities, and boundaries should be identifiable. Consider transport links, community groups and facilities, natural or physical boundaries, parishes and shared interests.
3. New wards should promote effective and convenient local government. Consider the number of councillors for, the geographic size of, and the links between parts of the ward.

THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR RESPONSE

1. That there should be 36 Councillors, representing Havant Borough Council.
2. That the new pattern of wards results in each councillor representing broadly the same number of electors. For Havant this is 2,796 per Councillor or within a 12.5% variance of this total.
3. That we seek to maintain the boundaries and integrity of existing, familiar communities and wards.
4. That each ward is equally represented by three Councillors and that our current election cycle of by thirds is maintained.
5. That the proposal is reflective of the Commission's three guiding principles.

The Borough's Current Wards:



Introduction to our proposal

Ward Name	Current	Forecast	Difference	Variance
Hart Plain	7747	8150	403	-2.84%
Cowplain	7453	7549	96	-10.00%
Waterloo	8147	8095	-52	-3.49%
Purbrook	7618	7910	292	-5.70%
Stakes	7771	7722	-49	-7.94%
St Faiths	8138	9036	898	7.72%
Emsworth	8353	8683	330	3.52%
Barncroft	4623	4595	-28	-45.22%
Battins	4954	4923	-31	-41.31%
Bondfields	4988	5278	290	-37.08%
Warren Park	5119	5364	245	-36.05%
Bedhampton	7492	8187	695	-2.40%
Hayling East	7644	7622	-22	-9.13%
Hayling West	7026	7543	517	-10.07%

The above table represents the current wards within the Havant Borough Council area. Currently there are 14 wards, 10 of which elect three councillors by thirds. Four wards elect two Councillors by halves.

Under the proposed 36 councillors model, the whole Borough would equally elect three Councillors in 12 wards. Each ward would be within 12.5 per cent variance of **8,388 electors** per ward. The table shows the variance against the target elector per ward.

This will mean substantial changes to the wards of Barncroft, Bondfields, Battins and Warren Park. These four wards represent the Leigh Park community. We propose that they should on the whole remain intact, with two wards of three councillors forming Leigh Park West and Leigh Park East.

Ward Name	Current	Forecast	Difference	Variance
Leigh Park East	9942	10201	259	21.61%
Leigh Park West	9742	9959	217	18.73%

The wards of Leigh Park East and Leigh Park West, if simply the amalgamation of the current Leigh Park wards would be outside the variance that form the principles of this submission. Therefore in this report, we suggest that changes are made to the wards of Bedhampton and St Faith's.

Aside from this we propose minor changes to the boundaries to ensure that they remain in line with the principles of our response. We also propose to change the name of St Faith's Ward to Havant St Faith's which is a better reflection of the fact it covers Havant town centre.

West of the A3(M)

Ward Name	Current	Forecast	Difference	Variance
Hart Plain	7747	8150	403	-2.84%
Cowplain	7453	7549	96	-10.00%
Waterloo	8147	8095	-52	-3.49%
Purbrook	7618	7910	292	-5.70%
Stakes	7771	7722	-49	-7.94%

The Borough of Havant is divided by the A3(M), which is the major arterial route from Portsmouth to London. These wards form very distinct communities and it would be very difficult for any ward to cross the main road that separates them from the rest of the Borough.

The five wards that form the wider Waterlooville area were once part of the ancient Forest of Bere; today the Queen's Inclosure is one of the last remnants of this ancient woodland in the area.

The construction of the Berewood and Wellington Park development (formerly known as the Major Development Area or MDA) to the west of Waterlooville is ongoing. The development will provide around 3,000 new homes and new employment space once completed. However, only about 600 of these homes will be within Havant Borough's administrative boundary, the rest will be within Winchester City Council's.

Hart Plain, Cowplain and Waterloo are inside the Meon Valley Parliamentary Constituency, while Purbrook and Stakes are inside the Havant Parliamentary Constituency. We make the strong argument that there are no cross parliamentary boundaries. It should be noted that the concurrent but separate Parliamentary Boundary Review proposes the creation of the Fareham and Waterlooville Constituency that the wards of Hart Plain, Cowplain and Waterloo would be part of.

The only proposal we suggest for these three wards is to equalise them slightly by moving houses along the southern part of Tempest Avenue inside the Cowplain Ward.

For the wards of Purbrook and Stakes, we would propose keeping the existing boundaries that already reflect well the two communities served by the local area. We wanted it to be noted the higher levels of social housing and complex needs of the residents of Stakes make it distinct from Purbrook.

Hayling Island

Ward Name	Current	Forecast	Difference	Variance
Hayling East	7644	7622	-22	-9.13%
Hayling West	7026	7543	517	-10.07%

Hayling Island is separated from the mainland by a narrow channel known as Sweare Deep and lies between Chichester Harbour to the east and Langstone Harbour to the west.

It is a separate and distinct community that is connected to the mainland by the Hayling Bridge. It is currently served by two wards of six Councillors that we strongly argue should remain the same.

While Islanders have a distinct self-identity, there is not much difference between East and West Hayling. The current boundary runs through Mengham which is the main commercial area in the centre of the Island.

We would argue to maintain the current distinction between East and West, as opposed to North and South which would be a more complicated way to divide the Island.

The only other part of the Borough that could be considered part of either Hayling Island ward would be Langstone, (polling district DC). These 836 electors share many similarities to Islanders as they are served by the same one road, the A3023, that connects it to the rest of the Borough.

We'd strongly argue however, due to the unique nature of the Hayling, that it remains the same, despite being slightly under the target number of electors, but within the variance.

Emsworth

Ward Name	Current	Forecast	Difference	Variance
Emsworth	8353	8683	330	3.52%

Emsworth is located in the east of the Borough and shares a boundary with Chichester District and the County of West Sussex.

At present, Emsworth is 482 hectares in area which is less than a tenth of the total area of Havant Borough. There are expanses of woodland in north Emsworth; these include Hollybank Wood and Southleigh Forest from the remnants of the ancient Forest of Bere. The River Ems flows down the eastern side of the area also. It is centred around the town of Emsworth.

The ward of Emsworth is currently served by one electoral ward. This ward is a distinct community and is near the target number of electors.

Therefore we propose that the borders and polling districts stay largely the same.

We argue that the south west boundary should be extended to the junction of the A27 so the development of Saxon Corner (Blandings Way) is fully included in the Emsworth Ward.

Consideration should also be given to the South Leigh development to ensure that the boundary does not run through the middle of this strategic development.

Leigh Park

Ward Name	Current	Forecast	Difference	Variance
Leigh Park East	9942	10201	259	21.61%
Leigh Park West	9742	9959	217	18.73%

Sir George Staunton brought the Leigh Park Estate in 1819 upon his return from diplomatic service in China.

The Fitzwygram family later purchased the estate in 1874, but sold the land in 1944 to Portsmouth City Council (PCC) so that PCC could accommodate the city's growing housing need. Following this, a large scale house building program commenced in the 1950s and early 1960s along with demolition of Leigh Park House in 1959.

To this day, a large amount of Leigh Park is still owned by PCC although many properties have been purchased under the 'right to buy'. The urban landscape is dominated by two-storey brick built terraces.

We refer to Leigh Park East and Leigh Park West merely to differentiate the two wards. We make no response in terms of the names of the ward. We feel there should be further consultation with residents for names that better reflect the communities.

Leigh Park East

The proposed ward of Leigh Park East would be formed in the majority from current wards of Bondfields and Battins.

Bondfields is the community of West Leigh and is separated from St Faith's to the East by the Portsmouth Mainline Railway. It is a strong self-contained community centred around the Church of St Albans. There is a distinction between this ward and the rest of Leigh Park, which is due to it historically being housing owned by Havant Borough Council as opposed to Portsmouth City Council.

Battins forms the centre of Leigh Park through the Park Parade and Greywell shopping areas.

In order for Leigh Park East to be within variance we would propose that the polling district of GA and the roads off Winterslow Drive are incorporated into Leigh Park West. This would mean around 8,800 electors in the ward of Leigh Park East.

We also propose that Havant St Faith's incorporates Fair Oak Drive in the southern part of Battins.

Leigh Park West

The proposed ward of Leigh Park would be formed in the majority from current wards of Barncroft and Warren Park.

Aside from the addition of polling district GA we would leave the electoral ward of Warren Park entirely inside the new ward of Leigh Park West.

The ward would be centred around Park Community School which is a well used community hub. While containing no houses, we would also propose that the entire of Havant Thicket and the proposed Havant Reservoir is inside the ward. This will form a key community asset when the construction of the site is completed.

We would propose that the western boundary of this ward is formed by the natural boundary of the Hermitage Stream, Purbrook Way and Middle Park Way.

Havant and Bedhampton

Ward Name	Current	Forecast	Difference	Variance
St Faiths	8138	9036	898	7.72%
Bedhampton	7492	8187	695	-2.40%

After World War II, the market town of Havant formed a larger urban area with the settlements of Denvilles, Langstone, Bedhampton and Warblington.

These are currently formed into two local Government boundaries, St Faith's reflecting the traditional parish and Bedhampton.

We propose that the current ward of St Faith's is renamed to become Havant St Faith's, which we feel gives better identity to the ward. We accept that in order for the Leigh Park Wards to within variance, changes will be needed to be made to the border between Bedhampton and Havant St Faith's

Havant St Faith's

This ward will see the largest expansion of any ward in the Borough, with housebuilding centred around the strategic gap between Havant and Emsworth. It is important that the boundary of Havant St Faith's and Emsworth is aligned to ensure that the entire of the Southleigh development is inside Havant St Faith's.

The natural boundary of the railway line should continue to be used to define the communities of West Leigh and Denvilles.

While as currently situated, it is within variance, the Hermitage Stream forms a natural barrier between Havant and Bedhampton to the West and would therefore suggest this makes a more sensible natural boundary.

We would also see the merits of including Fair Oak Drive, which can only be accessed from Petersfield Road, inside Havant St Faith's.

Bedhampton

The ward of Bedhampton is formed of three separate but linked communities. The settlement of Old Bedhampton to the south around Bidbury Mead, West Bedhampton and the modern expanded Bedhampton that is situated on the recreational areas of Stratchface Lane and Hooks Lane.

It is served by a train station that carries the name of the area.

West Bedhampton, while separated from the rest of Bedhampton by the A3(M) is still a connected and historical part of the settlement. These residents more closely associate with Bedhampton and there is no direct connection to Purbrook in the north. We make the strong case that this remains part of the ward of Bedhampton.

As previously mentioned, the northern boundary to the ward is more naturally formed by the Purbrook Way and Hermitage Stream. This would allow for more equal electoral wards between Havant St Faith's, Leigh Park West and East.